

Microfilm 84/8132 (C) <MicRR>

AACR1rev

Curtis, C. P. (Catherine Parker) , 1801-1878.

* Copy of the bound manuscript, Curtis family
[microform] / C.P. Curtis, 1876. -- 1942
June.

95 p., bound ; 25 cm.

Ms.

Caption title.

Title on p. 5: Curtis family, descendants of
Samuel Curtis of Boston.

"A manuscript record ... given to the New
England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston,
February 20, 1912 by Mrs. Frances Harriot

CONTINUED ON NEXT CARD

85-116421

Curtis, C. P. (Catherine Parker) , 1801-
1878.

* Copy of the bound manuscript, ...(CARD 2)

Curtis. This copy ... written by Alice Lucinda
Priest, Brookline, Mass. June 1942, to give to
the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C."

Call number of original: CS71.C98 1876.

Master microform held by: DLC.

02/28/85

85-116421

CS 71

.C98

1876

Copy
of the found manuscript
"Curtis Family - C. P. Curtis, 1876"

A manuscript record of forty-nine pages
written by Miss Catharine Parker Curtis, 1801-1878,
of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and given to the
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston,
February 20, 1912 by Mrs. Francis Harriet Curtis

This copy of the above Curtis manuscript
written by Alice Lucinda Priest, Brookline,
Mass. June 1942, to give to the Library
of Congress, Washington, D.C.

From "The Town of Roxbury: Its Memorable
Persons and Places, etc. by Francis S. Drake,
Roxbury, October, 1878," the Preface, and Page 403:

"In 1712, Samuel, the grandson of William Curtis,
bought of Joshua Bowen, twenty acres bordering on
Jamaica Pond, and built in 1732 the house in
which his son and grandson Joseph lived, and
in which Miss Catharine P. Curtis, his grand-

daughter, resided, until her decease in July last. To the antiquarian taste and research of Miss Curtis, the public is indebted for the collection and preservation of much that is interesting in the past history of the town."

"Joseph, the son of Samuel Curtis, in 1771 married Catharine Parker, who kept a shop of British goods on Boylston Street."

And their son Captain Joseph Curtis, 1772-1858 in 1800 married his mother's grandniece, Betitia Allen Parker (Lieut. Jeremiah² Jeremiah⁴ Timothy³ Ensign Nathaniel² Deacon Thomas¹) and their first son, Catharine Parker Curtis, was the author of the above Curtis Family manuscript.

Gift

Alvin L. Priest

Mar. 22, 1944

1. C. 5. 4. Aug. 52

117

3

[Label on inside cover]

G

CUR

2175

New-England
Historic Genealogical
Society

Given by
Mrs. Frances Harriot Curtis
Boston
Mass.

Feb. 20, 1912

114

4
[Stamp]

Feb. 20 1912

5

Curtis family, descendants of Samuel
Curtis of Boston

These few pages were written at the
request of your Dear Mother a short
time before her death. they are
affectionately inscribed to her Children

Joseph
Bethia Ellen
Frances Harriot ^{Parker} Curtis
by Aunt Catharine 1876

Samuel Curtis my Great Grandfather,
 was the Grandson of the Emigrant
 William Curtis, and Born in the old House
 on Boylston St. Sept 2^d 1668 Married
 Hannah Gore daughter of the Emigrant
 John Gore June 6th 1711 She was Born
 Feb^y 14th 1668

He was a Shoemaker by trade and probably
 served his Apprenticeship in Boston, for on
 the Parish Records of Roxbury it is recorded,
 that Samuel Curtis received his dismission
 from the first Church in Boston, and recom-
 mended to the Church in Roxbury. —

In 1712 He purchased twenty Acres of land
 on Jamaica Plain bounded on Jamaica Pond
 of Ebenezer Newell of Roxbury in 1721-2 he
 built the House, now standing on the
 premises, in which I now reside — In
 January 1731 he bought five Acres of land
 of John Baker, of Roxbury, joining his first
 purchase — In 1738 He bought six Acres more
 of Widow Mary Parker, of Roxbury — in all,

thirty one Acres - which constituted the original farm.

This Couple had ten Children

Samuel Born March 22^d 1712 Died June 25["] 1733

Hannah - February 22^d 1713 - Dec. 20["] 1733

Philip - November 10["] 1716 - 14 day same month

Philip 2^d - October 4["] 1717 - Nov. 22^d 1797 aged 81^{years}

Joseph & Benjamin twins Jan 11["] 1721-2

Obadiah - August 2^d 1724 - Nov. 8th 1811

William - October 9th 1726 - May 10th 1728

Elizabeth - July 30["] 1728 - Nov. 13["] 1734. 7 years

William 2^d April 1730 - Died at Shelburne N. S.

My Grandfather Joseph Curtis Son of Samuel & Hannah Curtis was Born at Jamaica Plain Jan^y 11th 1721-2, he remained at home with his Father, untill the age of twenty one years, he then purchased a negro Man an horse, and began Farming for himself - he was the first person who sent Vegetables to market, in a Horse Cart they being previously carried in Panniers.

He became possessor of the family estate / although not the oldest son / by buying out the other heirs, paying one half the purchase money at the death of the first Parent, and the remainder at the others decease, agreeing to support them, during their lives, he lived a Bachelor untill the age of fifty years.

He married Katharine Parker, youngest daughter of Timothy and Mary Parker of Jamaica Plain July 3^d 1771 by Reverend Mr. Adams. She was born May 1735 in a House now standing on the right hand corner of Boylston St. purchased by her Father in

in 1720 - She was a very superior woman in point of intellect - Possessed of a strong discriminating mind with great power of wit and repartee, she was universally beloved by young and old.

When she was seventeen years old, she began keeping a small dry goods shop in a room fitted up for the purpose in her brother's wheelwright's Shop, which stood facing the street, now called Center St. My Grandfather added four rooms onto his house, from the main house to the street, consisting of a room for his wife's Shop a Parlour and two Chambers - she continued her business until the Small Pox prevailed in Boston and as herself and Husband had never had it she was fearful of taking it - They had five children, Joseph my Father Born Sept 23^d 1772 the others died in infancy. -

Page 3d

After the Battle of Lexington, when troops from the neighbouring States, assembled in the vicinity of Boston, my Grandfather opened his House, and gave quarters to a company of an hundred Men, reserving only his wife's shop, and one chamber. This Company was commanded by Capt Noadiah Hooker, of Farmington Conn. He had orders at twelve o'clock at noon, on a certain day, to fill up his Company with volunteers, and march for Roxbury the next day at night; every man was ready, with three days provision on his back - They were all young men of the first society in the place - and during the three months they were stationed at the House there was the most perfect order and decorum preserved during their stay, there was frequent alarms that the British were coming out of town, they were suddenly called out one night, and every man brought his watch, and purse, and deposited them with Mrs. Curtis, for safe keeping, why what shall I do with them she said? Oh, if we come

Lack they said, we shall know our own, and if we don't return, we would rather you would have them, than the British.

Among the soldiers was one young man who was dreadfully homesick. Grandmother told the Captain he might as well let him off, he would never do any fighting for him she told the soldier one day. If he did not behave better, they would call him a coward, he said he did not care what they called him, if he only could get home, his Mother sent him a Cake one day, he came to Grandmother's room to show it, she asked to sit up and take a cup of tea, which he did, but did not offer her any of his cake.

Page 4th

When Boston was besieged by the British troops, and nearly all the Merchants, had removed their goods to Salem, Haverhill, and villages in that direction, my Grandmother, with John Curtis her husband's Nephew proceeded to Haverhill in a vehicle called a chair to purchase some articles, to replenish her shop with, they left home early in the morning, and having succeeded, in their business, they were in readiness to return home about sunset, and as there would be a fine moon in the evening Mrs. Curtis proposed to reach home that night, as they were obliged to pass through the American encampment, and not knowing the countersign, her Nephew loudly remonstrated against it, he said it was presumption, to attempt it, she replied, I will hazard it, they accordingly set forth, the first sentinel they came to, accosted them, "who comes here" she ~~and~~ answered we are friends, honest and true to our country, have been to a neighboring

town to purchase goods, belong to Roxbury. I
 have a family, and am very anxious to get
 home, to night - now my good fellow, give me
 the countersign, I will never betray you,
 he was quite a youth, he replied, I cannot
 do it, for if you should prove false, I should
 suffer for it, she repeated her entreaty so
 earnestly, that at length he stepped up, near
 enough to whisper in her ear Rochester -
 they passed on, she was so fearful that she
 should forget the word, that she repeated it
 to herself all the way home but their journey
 was not without danger for her companion
 fell asleep, the horse took a wrong road, which
 well might brought them to the British lines,
 he however recovered himself in season to
 retrace their steps.

While the troops were in the House, one night my Grandmother missed her little boy Joseph, when it was time to undress him for the night, and looking all about she found him asleep between two soldiers. as there was frequent alarms that the British were coming out of town, my Grandfather took his aged mother who was blind, and his son, and his niece Hannah Curtis to take care of them - to his brother Philip's residence in Sharon. Joseph was used to living upon white bread and milk the bread they carried with them, and when it was eaten up, he would not touch his Aunt's brown bread, she said if he was her boy, she would lick him, untill he would. Hannah said she would have white bread, if she went down to Canton for it, Aunt Curtis had given her money to buy it, and have it she would -

Mrs. Bet Curtis the ministers daughter & her two children were staying there too her Husband who was a sea Captain was there also, just returned from West Indies, there was a man

riding through town one day on horse back, crying out the British are marching through the town turning ^{thence} as far as Milton Bridge, this man was an impostor, an immediately sent back under a proper guard, the inhabitants being alarmed, ran in every direction, at this ~~there~~ time Captain Curtis was at Massaponog pond where Col Gridley and a number of men were proving some mortars, which had been cast and were intended to be placed on Dorchester Heights - at the time the family fled to the woods - the Grandmother was asleep up stairs, Hannah Curtis said what shall I do, Uncle [Page 6th begins here] will never forgive me, if I do not take care of his Mother the Ministers daughter ran to the pasture, and caught the horse, and they harnessed him into the chaise themselves put the Grandmother in and his reverence her Son and little Joe, in the middle and they drove off at full speed after the family, Scipio the black man took his cane, and a loaf of bread, and went up garret,

and said he would defend the house. — Captain Curtis hearing the report, came home to look after his family. Scipio said Massa, Mistris throw your bag of money down the well, and wrap Massa Nat. up in a table cloth with the spoons and run to the woods, he followed Scipios directions and came in sight of them, when the louder he called, the faster they ran, thinking it the enemy — he was in no very good humour when he overtook them — his bag of money consisted of five hundred silver dollars.

Rev. Mr. Walter who was minister at West Roxbury, was of a very convivial habit and witty, he was one time at a raising at one of his Parishioners, and was "talkative" and jocular. That one of his Deacons stepped up to him, and said Parson are you not a little too merry people are observing you — he cried out in a loud voice, it is the good Christians that should be merry, you old sinners should be sad — he one day went gunning, with some of his neighbours,

and in the course of the day being thirsty drank from a spring which flowed over a dam, during the time they came to a house, the woman who bade them come in, asked him, if he would like something to drink - that I should be replied for I have had only a little dam-med water all day.

Page 7

In the time of the siege in Boston an Old Gentleman came there to have an operation performed, he was finally obliged to leave the Town and took lodgings with Grandmother Curtis her sister Cheney made a home with her when not engaged in taking care of the sick - one night there was an alarm the British are coming - Aunt Cheney came down stairs, with her cloak and clogs on, and her sisters cloak and clogs on her arm, a baby, John Waters a son of her friend Mrs. Waters / whom she had taken to nurse her own having died / he was squalling and screaming under her cloak, she said Come let's flee / where would you go,

said Grandmother, oh up to cousin Mayas she said, do make haste, we shall all be killed, if you dont she was making hasty pudding, for the sick man, her sister looked so distressed, she dropped her pudding stick and went to the door to look out, it rained in torrents, she came back, and said she would as soon be shot, as drowned, I wont stir a step. -

When the soldiers were quartered with them, they planted a field of Barley for Grandfather, and when it was fit for use, Grandmother said she never had so much company in all her life come to eat Barley bread and Butter, she bought two pounds of butter a week, and enjoyed it while it lasted, and then went without -

At that time provision was very scarce in Boston, and great distress there, no market men were allowed to enter the town they stopped about opposite our house - Grandfather said many a time he went out to buy a dinner, but came in without one, for there was not enough to supply all the distressed hungry multitude. -

Grandfather Curtis sister Mary married Joshua Loring a Commodore Loring in the British service, he was obliged to make up his mind which cause to stand by. he sat up all night before his flight, talking with neighbour Col. Brewer about the times he said it was his opinion the Americans cause, was the right one, but they never could succeed. — The next morning he mounted his horse, pistol in hand, and rode to Boston, full speed, just stopping to answer an old friends enquiries in Roxbury St. "are you going Commodore," yes he replied I have always eaten the Kings Bread and always mean to — He left a beautiful new house just built with a fine garden stocked with fruit trees — out house a farm house, and sixty five acres of land — He had four sons enrolled in the British Navy —

Mrs Newell one of the neighbors, and a distant relation of Grandfathers, lived in an old House, which stood where Charles F. [the "F" written in with a pencil] Curtis mansion

now is - was of a very respectable family -
 but had the reputation of being light finger-
 ed, not truthful, and a meddler with her
 neighbours affairs, at night, of the day in
 which the flight occurred, she took a
 horse and cart, and one Joshua Gore with
 her, and went to the Loring House to
 pillage, it was broad daylight, when she
 went home, her load was covered up by an
 oil cloth floor cloth & a side saddle on top
 of that, Grandmothers sister May, was a
 very early riser, & was milking her cows,
 and she saw them go by, she immediately
 sent word, to sister Curtis - who informed
 Mrs. Otadiah Curtis of the affair - who came
 out of town - and went over to Mrs. Newells
 and accused her of plundering the goods -
 Mrs. Newell lifted up both hands, and said,
 as true as there is a God, in Heaven or a
 man on earth, I never took anything belonging
 to Cousin Loring but the floor cloth and
 side saddle

In June 1775 Congress ordered that the house of Joshua Loring in Roxbury, be used for a Hospital for the Camp - his estate in Boston consisting of a handsome House and garden opposite the Common, at the corner of West St. was advertised in Drapers Independent Ledger, May 15th 1779 by order of the General Court of Massachusetts and sold at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, Kings St. June 1779 He died at High Gate about four miles from London

Mrs. Obadiah Curtis came out of town, one day, and said, that the British, had given out word, that any one, who would bring in a load of Tory goods, should have liberty to take out a load of rebel articles - so Grandfather sent Tom Cheney with his horse and cart with furniture from the Loring House - Tom was gone three days, he would load up, and then the soldiers would tip him up and he would stop to fight - Grandfather was very much worried about him, he said

if he could only see him back, with the old white horse, and cart home again, he would never meddle with others peoples business again - Tom made his appearance, without any goods on the third night -

Mrs. Loring came out of town, the Sunday before the British evacuated the town, the family had gone to church, she wanted her Mother to go away with them, when Grandfather came home, and found out what was going on, he said, Mother, which had you rather do, go away with Molly, or stay here and live with me - after awhile she would stay with him she said -

The Loring stock of cattle, Cows, Oxen and horses, were running loose in the street, but Grandfather would not have one of them, driven into his yard, for fear he should be thought a Tory -

When Grandmother Curtis was quite a young girl she used often to go over the Hill to her pister Gore's who lived on the Gore place the House stood directly in the corner next to the Hill, there were two little children in the family and she sometimes spent a week there, helping take care of them

Mrs. Gore said to Husband one day, I don't believe we shall use half of the vegetables you have raised this year, would it not be a good plan for Katy to go to Market, with sister Stedmans, Phillis, and sell some of them - he replied do as you like, I have no objection, so she was fitted out, with a Horse and Panniers, and vegetables, she continued in the business for a week, on Saturday night, on their way home Phillis stopped to collect debts, she got off her horse and left him in Katies charge, an attempted to go into a store, the keeper of it, promising to pay her that night, instead of which, he came at her

with a horsewhip and struck at her, it was muddy, and she made up mud balls, and threw at him, until a great crowd gathered about them calling out, give it him good, Blackey -

It got to be almost nine o'clock, and no signs of returning, her sister became alarmed about them - she told her husband, he must go, and see what had become of them he came up to them down by the bridge - this was the last of Katy's going to market -

When Grandmother was sixteen years old, she went to Reading Mass, with her brother Timothy to see their fathers relations, he came from there - he went to a raising there a great affair in those days, and was introduced to many of them, in the evening sixty cousins, assembled at the house of one of the number to meet them, her Father was one of fourteen children and his Grandfather the Emigrant had that number also -

Several persons have laid claim to the feat of conveying the Cannon out of the town of Boston, which were so dextrously taken from the Gun House, and placed under the desk of the schoolmaster, in the schoolhouse near by. It honestly belongs to Johnathan Parker, of Roxbury, a farmer and a high whig; he was a brother of my grandmother Curtis, he placed them in his load of manure, which he was taking from the stable adjoining, and brought them out to Roxbury - and deposited them in Muddy Pond Woods in that town - many years after this event he lived in the family of his sister Curtis - the next day after the exploit, a Company of Red coats passed by my Grandfathers house, searching for the missing cannon - This company was part of a Battalion of 500 men which were scattered in various directions for the same purpose, with no better success -

This same Johnathan Parker and a party

of his neighbours of the same patriotic sentiments
as himself, were present, to hear Warrens ad-
dress in the Old South Church, and planned
to go in the evening to help the Tea Party.
Tanner Heath, the brother of the Gen. was to
be one of the number, he did not make his
appearance, which very much enraged the
others. Mr. Parker was deputed by the party,
on their return home, to beat his door in,
he provided himself with a heavy cudgel
he was a very strong muscular man, they
stopped at his house, in a body, and he had
drawn back his arm, to give a heavy blow,
when Mrs. Heath, opened the door, and
said walk in Gentlemen, and take some
refreshments, Mr. Heath was taken suddenly
ill, & could not go. they wheeled about
and marched home.

**PAGINATION
INCORRECT**

**PAGINATION
INCORRECT**

Grandmother Curtis and Grandmother Parker went to drink tea with Mrs. Peleg Heath one afternoon. they wore their white Lawn aprons, which was considered proper, in those days. they observed that Mrs. Heath, had a calico one on, and a white one was hanging on the back of the chair, and that she was continually looking out of the window. Grandmother Parker asked her what was the matter - Oh, nothing, only I was looking to see if Sister Gerrall was coming, if she was, I should put on my white Apron, Bless me, said Grandmother Curtis, aer'n't we as good as sister Gerrall.

At the time that Grandfather had gone to Sharon with his blind mother, and little Jo to the Ministers. Grandmother had sent her Shop goods, to the upper part of the Town, and was standing at her Shop door, looking out, having no business to do, when Mrs. Peleg Heath came along in a horse and Chair with her three children with her, the hired girl driving the Cows

632

and Mr. Heath, with a horse and cart with ~~the~~ furniture in it - she stopped and said Mrs. Curtis, why dont you flee, you will stay untill you are killed by the British, come along with us - she replied, when I have heard that they have come out as far as the lower Meeting House, I will have my horse harnessed I know I can travel as fast as they can march -

Page 13th

Grandmother Curtis was the last of the family left at home to take care of her aged Mother, and contributed to her support. She could never get time to bake her Thanksgiving pies untill the night before, after she had shut up her shop - and three sons in law, of her Mother came to eat a hot supper at ~~the~~ house while their wives were glad to get rid of them on such a busy occasion - One year there was a dreadful storm in the afternoon before Thanksgiving - she closed her shop, and told her Mother she should have a good time for baking - those plagues would be obliged to stay at home for once, her Mother

said I am dreadful sorry, it will be so dull without them, no sooner spoken, than the Ox sleds driven by their black men stopped at the door - and they alighted, coming into the house shaking the snow from their garments, and expecting the customary supper.

Timothy Parker my Grandmother's youngest brother, left his trade for awhile, and went into the French war, with a Lieutenants Commission, under General Bradstreet, he was at the taking of Casapuhawangh now Kingston Upper Canada, the city was sacked and given up to pillage. Officers and soldiers went in and helped themselves to plunder, one soldier took a large gilt framed looking glass, and marched with it several miles, and then stood it beside a tree - he used to say he did not know but it was there yet. He came back with a Captains commission, he arrived home at night and next morning was at work in his shop, to the astonishment of his neighbours. Grandmother always thought he enriched himself, by that expedition.

Timothy Parker bought a Farm at Sturbridge, before the Revolutionary War, went there to live, he had nine children, six daughters and three sons - when his oldest son Aaron was of age, he bought a Farm at Holden Mass. with a large house, and store, upon it - Aaron Parker and Aaron White his wife's nephew, went into ~~bu~~ business together, the former was to carry on the Farm, and the latter the Store, but this partnership did not last long, for Aaron Parker said he had all the work to do, and Aaron White pocketed all the profits -

Mr. Parker then sold his farm at Sturbridge, and went to Holden to live, and opened a Public House there came one day a Gentleman on horse-back to the Inn and wished refreshment for himself - and his horse to be taken care of, after dinner, in conversation with his host he asked him, if he had a daughter Lucy, Mr. Parker said he had, well he said She had been recommended to him for a wife, I should like an introduction to her - I don't know about

that, her father replied you are an entire stranger to me what is your name, Joseph Tyler of Uxbridge, well Mr. Parker said I had a sister married to a Mr Tyler of Uxbridge but any how, I cannot grant your request, untill I know something more about you, he rode away, and a short after returned, bringing satisfactory credentials of his character - an introduction took place, an offer of marriage made - and the marriage was appointed for an early day Lucy came down to Boston for her outfit, she slept with her Aunt who said Lucy, how did you become acquainted with Mr Tyler? Oh, he brought a letter of recommendation of his character - well how did it read Lucy

Page 15th

This is to certify that Captain Tyler, is a man of strict integrity, of unexceptional moral character, and of a good capacity for business - signed by the Selectmen and Town Clerk. Grandmother laughed outright, there I knew you would laugh at me, but I don't care. Father tells Mother, he always bought silver

spoons, for the other girls when they married, but I must take them out of the house, as there is an abundance of them now I intend to weigh them and take the heaviest.

My Mother's Grandfather had two wives his daughter by the first marriage was Elizabeth always called Betty, had a very hard exacting Step Mother - her Father was passing through the kitchen one morning, and she was washing, and appeared as though she had been crying, what is the matter, daughter, he said, she burst into tears and said, she would not care, how much or hard she worked, if she could only have gone to the dance with Timothy Man - you shall go he said - so as he went to Market that day - he stopped at Timothy's shop (who was a clothier by trade in Roxbury St.) and opened the door and cried out, Betty says she will go.

They were afterwards married and lived at Walpole Mass - and every time Betty came home on a visit her Father he put a silver crown in her hand - as she went home. She died in

middle life - her husband lived to be ninety seven years, old they had one son Timothy, who was not very brilliant in intellect - he came to see, Grandmother one day & in the course of conversation said he had thoughts of getting married. You are she said in surprise, why yes Aunt I have, for I think there is no better time then when a man is 19 years - why Timothy, she said, I never knew a man at 19 -

Page 16th

The intelligence that the British intended to go out to Lexington was conveyed over Boston Neck, to Roxbury, by William Dawes of Boston, a Leather dresser by trade, who was mounted, on a slow jogging horse, with paddle bags behind him, and large flapped hat on his head, to resemble a countryman, on a journey - Col. Josiah Waters of Boston, a staunch Whig, and who afterwards acted as Engineer in directing the building of the Forts, at Roxbury - Followed on foot, on the side walk, at a short distance, from him - untill he saw him safely past all the sentinels. the Amer-

icans obtained this news through an individual by the name of Jasper, an Englishman a gun Smith by trade, whose shop was in Hatters square, he worked for the British, but was friendly to the rebels, a Sergeant Major quartered in his family, and made a confidant of him telling him all their plans, Jasper repeated the same to Col. Waters, who made it known to the Committee of Safety the Col. often told this story in his old age to my Father.

Mrs. Waters had a sister, who first married a Mr. Tyler, afterwards a Mr. Whitwell, she was a widow, and came out in her old age, to live at Jamaica Plain, she had two Tyler sons John and Royall, the latter a Lawyer, and afterwards Chief Justice of Vt. they were idle men living on their Mother, and spent a great deal of time, poking fun, at and making puns, on their Mothers ancient serving woman & selling off the plate, untill there was scarcely a spoon to feed her with, in her last sickness - Mrs. Waters said when she moved there, the Black man, carried into house a two bushel basket full of purs as

he could lift - they were not at home in the latter part of their Mothers life - she said I should have liked to have seen them once more, but I must give them into to Gods hands, her Sister said I dont know as he would take them -

Page 17th

My Grandmother was the youngest of nine children of Timothy and Mary Parker, all but her married in early life eight of them settled within a mile of the Homestead, one in the upper part of Roxbury - the five sisters used to assemble at Grandmothers, on Election day, all but Aunt Cheney, to play whist at nine oclock in the morning - she said she thought it was wicked to play cards when they had to wear spectacles, besides this company came the Minister and his wife also to stay two nights & John Curtiss daughter, and two of Dr Bens daughters to pass a week.

Grandmother was a very expert spinner on the little wheel hers had worn out, she commissioned the Minister to buy her one,

they were made at Sharon, he did so. and insisted upon bringing it down in front of them in the Chaise - His wife was very angry about it, no wonder, for husband was a very corpulent person, and they must have had, a most uncomfortable ~~trip~~ ride -

Scipio the ministers black man, formerly a black slave in the Loring family, came down the night before, and lodged with London, and then in the morning they went to Boston, and called at Capt. Nat Curtis's for Philis, and went on to the Common, and spent the day dancing with the coloured people, at night they bid good bye to Philis, and Scipio, again, took quarters with London, and in the morning, he trudged home, on foot -

London, appeared very sick one time, said he was going to die Grandfather asked if he was willing to go, and if he had repented of all his sins I believe so Massa, thoust some I did when I was young & forget all about them - it was soon found out what was the cause of Londons poor health - he had drank up, all the cider in the cellar,

Grandmother Curtis and Miss Hitty Bowen, went one afternoon, to drink tea with Anna Heath, the sister of the future General, they were sitting at the table, when her brother came in and paid his respects to them, she called out Bill, do you want some tea, yes ~~Mrs~~ Anna, he said, I should like very much to take a cup of tea with the Ladies. well then get yourself a cup and saucer he did so, she was a person of very coarse manners, she married the third Isaac Curtis, was left a widow young, with a large family she was very lame with the Rheumatism and obliged to walk with a crutch, about house - She came up to Grandfather's one hot summer day to know, if he could tell her of some one, to cut her grass although she had two sons, John the youngest was a poor trial to her - her daughters were no more refined than herself. Betsey kept school, and my mother was one of her scholars, one day Mrs. Curtis came to the foot of the stairs and called out, Betsy come down, John has got kicked with the horse, Betsey ran across the benches, and

cried out, nothing will kill John but death

The Old Elm Tree, now standing on the Curtis place the residence of the Emigrant William Curtis, was procured from Rocky Swamp by Elizabeth and Anna Curtis, daughters of the above mentioned Lady in the year 1775 and planted by their Father, Isaac Curtis, then helping to steady it - it was a very small sapling when set out -

When Grandfather and his twin brother Benjamin were little fellows in petticoats, they used to go over to a Mr. Baker's who owned the Gore place who had a daughter Betty and hold up their aprons and say Betty Baker give me tater. they would go home and roast them and then go for more, these were the first potatoes raised in the place Turnips were used in their stead -

Grandmothers Sister Belitia married Caleb Stedman for her first husband, had two children, all died - then she married ~~Mr.~~ Mr John Williams Mr Moses Williams Grandfather, who came to live in the Stedman House, which stood directly on the road where Mr. Thomas Seaverns resides - they had three very beautiful daughters one married a Frenchman, and the other two took Connecticut soldiers and were very poor. Mrs. Stedman died, and her husband, became sick - he had a daughter, a Mrs. Fellows, who came to take care of him, she had a large family. Her Husband was a Tea Captain, and poor. he had pledged his watch to her father to fit himself out for sea, it hung over fireplace, his son John came every day to see his Father, when he had gone, one time, it was missing, she knew very well where it went too, next day when he made his appearance, she said, John did you take the watch, I must have it to give Father his medicine by, he handed it forth, and she put it, in her bosom, and he never saw it again - she knew her Father would not live long and

that she would not have any home there, and that her brother would not assist her, or give her any sympathy - she went and hired Com. Loring's Farm House, and employed her imbecile brother who lived with her, to cart Beef and Pork, all kinds of vegetables, and wood, and everything else that she could find, with which to make herself comfortable - thus outwitting her hard hearted brother.

Page 20th

Grandfather's youngest Brother, called Bill was a lazy inefficient person, and his wife was pretty much like him, he was a burden on the family always, and they had him to support. Com. Loring, who married his sister, thought it would be a good plan, to send him down to Shelburne N.S. to live, a man who had lived with him many years, went there, and got a good living - so the Old House which stood where your Uncle Herman now lives, was taken down, and sent to the place to be rebuilt for the family, and they departed for their new home, they did not get rid of Uncle Bill so easily. By that project, for he came up every year, for supplies - his visits were un-

45)
conspicuous long one time the harbour was frozen
over, and he was obliged to stay all winter, he
had pretty much worn out his garments. Grand-
mother Curtis sent word to the Ministers wife
at Sharon, if she did not send Bill two shirts
and two pairs of stockings, she would send him,
by cousin Richards up to them the first time
he came to Market - she had just made her
son Calvin two shirts, one was on his back, which
she took off and with the other, and the stockings
she sent down forth with for fear he would be
quartered on them.

When my Father was an infant, his mother
one night fed him and set his spoon and
porringer in the corner of the fireplace. Uncle
Bill who was on one of his visitations, took his
coat off, and hung it on a chair, & put his
shoes in the corner, and went to bed. Grand-
mother and her husband slept in a room open-
ing from the sitting room. After awhile Grand-
father says Katy, did you leave Bill Shod
and Polly Cheney, up when you went to bed,
no, do go to sleep - then there is some one in
the house, will then why dont you get up and

see - he did not do so - but next morning sure enough there had been a thief in, Little Joss. Spoon and porringer, was gone & Uncle Bills Coat and shoes, he did not grieve, he knew he would get new ones in their place -

Page 21

Grandmother had a sick child, and, it had got to be the night before Thanksgiving and no pies made, she told Molly Gore they would have to do without them until some other time. Joseph Johnson one of the Connecticut soldiers, and his man, boarded with them, and made cloth shoes for her shop - they said, Mrs. Curtis if you will only tell us how, we will roll out the paste, and Molly can fill them, they were provided with aprons, and went to work, when all the plates were filled, Molly came to know what was to be done next, as they have a great deal of paste and good things left yet. her mistress told her, to take some bowls out of the closet, roll out the crust, and cut it round the bowl, and make turnovers - Molly watched the operation, they put the paste outside of the bowls, and filled them with the good things

Molly went into the sitting room, and said do Mrs. Curtis come out and see, what funny turnovers, they have made - I cannot do it she said you must shew them, how to make them properly - she did so - they had very respectable looking pies that year -

The kitchen fire place was so large, that there was an oven in the side, and you could go in and bake in the corner. London used to sit on a log in one corner, and Master Joseph occasionally kept him company, on another log in the other corner. they could sit and see a large piece of the sky from the top - London was a Guinea Negro, taken at the Siege of Louisburg Com Loring was in that expedition. in looking over some letters of the Lornings to Grandfather after they went to England, in one of them - they say if London is living say his old ~~mist~~ Mistress and young Master enquired after him he died in the family of Dr. Hornes. who married a cousin of my Father. he lived at Newton Mass

mother's Grandmother Parker, had a sister, who was a poor widow, and obliged to get her own living - she had an offer of marriage from a Mr Amnidon, a widower, from Mendon, who was much older than herself, and dreadfully afflicted with the Rheumatism, and said to be very cross and irritable - she took the matter under consideration - Mrs Parker said, I would not marry him sister, he is a fractious, ugly fellow and so old. she replied I think I shall, for I am as poor as poor can be, and if any body can live with him, I can. she accordingly did so. his son and family lived in part of the House. he lived several years, and she had a great trial with him - one night she had got him comfortably off to bed, and stepped into her daughters room, and stood up before the fire with her hands on her hips, and drew a long sigh - Mrs. Amnidon said what is the matter, you look very tired, well I am about used up I must say, well I always thought it strange, that such a young, handsome woman, as you were, should marry Father who was so much older than you. Oh who would have thought

he would live always she replied -

Some time after the old gentleman's death the son called to see Grandmother, he was a small man, with extremely short legs, and abundance of self conceit - she enquired after his mother, he was strutting about the room. Oh he said, she was first rate, and I am up to my knees in business introducing widowers to her, not so very high either she said -

Page 23^d

Dr. Benjamin Curtis, Grandfather's nephew graduated at Harvard College, 1771 - kept school to help pay his expenses - went to Philadelphia, to study medicine - he was engaged to Miss Elizabeth Billings of Sharon - previous to his going away her mother thought it best for them to be married, no one of his family but his brother John, was in the secret, they all knew of the engagement, his Uncle Joseph assisted him through College, and in other ways helped, and he would have been very angry at such an unadvised step she went afterward to Wrentham, to teach school, My Mother

150

uncle Joseph Parker a Merchant in Providence, used to stop at the Public House, where she boarded - on his way to Boston. He fell in love with her, and offered himself to her. she was obliged to tell him she was married.

Benjamin returned, when through with his medical studies, and settled in Boston, was prospered in his profession, owned a house at the time of his death, he died very suddenly at thirty two years of age 1780, he left two sons and two daughters.

She lived a widow several years, but always upon the lookout for another Husband, she was out of health, at one time, and used to ride out of town on horse back - she came to breakfast one morning with Grandmother. as they sat at table, she saw Deacon Brown, one of her neighbors go by on horseback, she left her coffee untasted, mounted her horse, and rode after him full speed but nothing came of this attention - when her children were old enough to go to school, she sent them, to Mr Elisha Ticknor. she began her plans here by occasionally inviting the Gentleman to tea - then frequently to dine with her. and after awhile induced him to ^{live} with her, and finally he married her in 1791.

John Curtis and his wife always drank tea, every Saturday afternoon, with my Grandfather as long as he lived, he made known the engagement, as soon as it was publicly known. after the parties were married, they were invited to tea, by Grandmother and John and his wife - on the appointed day, John came and said Mr and Mrs Ticknor had gone out to Dedham, to make a call, and would stop as they returned - My mother had never seen Mrs. Ticknor, but supposed, she must be a very handsome fascinating lady from all the talk about her - so she sat down by the window, to watch their coming, every good looking horse and chaise that came along, she thought it must be them, but so when they did make their appearance their equipage was a very poor one - she was so struck ^{with} Mrs Ticknor's appearance, that she could not help staring at her, she was a tall masculine looking person, of a dark swarthy complexion, large black eyes - her dress was an olive silk, somewhat the worse for the wear, and very much soiled with perspiration under the arms, and a green silk bonnet covered over, with white lace.

Johns wife was gentle looking lady, and my dress
the contrast was very striking. Mr Ticknor was a
handsome blue eyed light complexioned man.
they were married in 1791. had one son. Professor
George Ticknor born 1791. Mrs Curtis Ticknor was
Grandmother of the late Judge B. R. Curtis, she
must have had some fascinating manners about
her I think to have attracted the Gentlemen around her.

Page 25th

Mrs. Thomas Weld, one of Grandmother Curtis's
acquaintance had a numerous family - she went one
day on foot to Brookline to visit a friend, carrying an
infant in her arms, and another little one follow-
ing by her side - as she was returning home, a Gentle-
man & Lady came along in a Horse and Chaise, they stopped,
and the Lady said how far are you going my good woman
- she said a long way a head. well, we will take the
child. if you tell us where to leave it, it will help
you along very much, will go along up to the Meeting
House, and turn down the road opposite, on the right
hand side keep going untill you come to an old House,
one end tumbled down, and the other following after, put
it down there, it will find an owner-

Grandmother said, were you not afraid they would ride away with your child? no indeed she replied, children are to plenty for that -

During the Siege, and while the soldiers were in the House, John Curtis came to Grandfather's to live, and brought his brother Lemuel, who was sick in a consumption, to Mrs. Newell's to board, he was a Hatter by trade, and did not think it safe to work in Roxbury St, the soldiers drew his Shop up by hand, receiving their pay in Rum, at certain distances, they stopped to rest, and took a drink, and then went on again, untill they accomplished the feat, and landed it in the corner of Grandfather's garden. John told his Aunt Lemuel wanted to come to her house, she said he should as soon as the soldiers went away, he did so, and died there, one night Mrs Newell watched with him. next morning John told his Aunt, he did not know as she had stolen anything, but there was not a bureau, trunk or closet, but what she had taken every article out, and inspected it, and perhaps put everything back again -

Dr Gordon the first Minister of the Church on Jamaica Plain was a Scotchman, very stern and arbitrary in his manners, he used to go to the Elliot School, once a month, and catechise the scholars from the Westminster Catechism, the children stood in dread of him, on one occasion, in winter, it was very icy on the door step, his feet slipped, and he was laid his whole length on the ground, his hat and wig fell off, and flew away, the boys raised a loud uproar, which so enraged him, that he never came again.

He was preaching one Sunday, in the division of his sermon, he had got through with firstly and secondly, and turned over the leaves of his Manuscript, said thirdly, a second time thirdly and in great embarrassment thirdly, but did not find it, when a little girl in one of the Pews, stood up and said, Sir thirdly flew out of the window sometime ago -

One Sunday afternoon, David Parker, my Mother's Uncle who was a wild fellow - up to all sorts of mad pranks, procured a Clergyman's

gown, bands, and wig, and dressed up in them, & entered the Meeting House, after service began, and seated himself, in the back Pew at the right hand side, of the Pulpit - the moment Dr Gordon said Amen, David escaped out of side door, and the Doctor, ran down stairs in great haste, calling out stop that young Clergyman, but David was not to be found.

His sister Hannah was dining that day with an Aunt whose house stood directly on the road, she saw him go by, and recognized him - she knew he was up to some kind of mischief, and would not go to Meeting that afternoon -

Page 27th

My Mother was eleven years of age, when she came to live with her Aunt, only six when her Father died in 1780. the first night she slept in the house, the lower floors, were occupied by soldiers who were going to take Rebel Shays and his confederates, this rebellion took place in January 1785.

Sometime years after, before Grandfather died,

she recollected a country Clergyman, coming to see him, some one she presumed that he had before acquainted with during the war, she did not hear his name, or where he came from, but observed his dress. he wore breeches and dark blue long stockings. - he said he preached a sermon at the foot of the gallows, on the day appointed for their execution from these words - "What Fruits had ye then in those things, where of ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. they were reprieved on that day there were fourteen considered worthy of death. Parson went to Vermont and staid there two years, asked pardon of the authorities and received it, he then went to Sparta in the state of New York where he died Sep. 29 1825. he served in the Revolutionary war, a pension was granted him for his services at that time -

It is to be hoped that my Mother was mistaken, in the sermon being preached in the open air, of a January day to those poor convicts awaiting death -

Judge Parsons was a Gentleman very slovenly in his personal habits and appearance - he was once upon a time drinking tea with his brothers wife, the tea was handed round to the company, he put his thumb

(57)
and finger into the sugar bowl, and took out a lump of sugar, when it returned to Mrs Parsons, she threw it out of the window. when he drank up his tea, he threw his cup and saucer out also, no word was spoken by either party -

Page 28th

My Father when a boy had two companions, Harry Blaney and Joe Gore, a dumb fellow, who lived opposite, but spent most of his time with him, one day Joe Curtis and Joe Gore were eating pudding off of one plate Joe Curtis says Mother, Joe Gore is afraid we shant get another slice, if we dont make haste - he could understand his language.

Another time the three inseparables, followed a Military Company on foot to Cambridge, on Commencement day, a Mrs. Cobbel who had been a Nurse in his Mothers family, and was on this day employed to see to an entertainment, given by Joseph Puggles who was a graduate that year, from Roxbury - she espied them, and took them to her room to rest, and gave them refreshments, and looked about among the multitude, and got a ride for them home, it was the custom

58

when I was a child, for people to ride for pleasure to Cambridge on Commencement day. I have been several times with my Father and Mother -

Another time my Father and his two friends, went to Mill, with Corn to grind, they harnessed the horse, themselves, without any girth, and going down a steep hill, the horse ran at full speed endangering their lives, which he considered a providential escape from death -

When a larger boy, he went to Brookline to School. he walked across lots, and stopped at a brook where was the remains of an old Chocolate Mill. he saw a large snake, out of the water, he kept looking at it without the power to move, he seemed to be drawing nearer and nearer to it he thought it the most beautiful object he ever saw, with all the hues [Page 29th] of the rainbow, there came along in the same path a man called Dennis, who lived upon his Father's half his time, he slapped him on the shoulder, and said for, what are you looking at; it was a large Adder, which the man killed, and that relieved him, he always said he was charmed by the snake, and considered this also a providential escape from death -

He had a Boys Military Company, when young John Doane. Mrs. Greenough's son, was Lieutenant and John Curtis fife, and no doubt Harry Blaney, was Ensign, he went to market one day with his father and wanted a drum, he bought him one, and it took all the money he got for his load to pay for it - when they were already for display, they were invited up to Mrs. Greenoughs to parade and had an entertainment this drum was sold afterward to a Company in Needham.

This is the order for it. I write and spell it just as received

Mr. Curtis. Please to send the

[No effort
to imitate
writing.]

Drum by the barrer and you shall
have your pay next week
with out fail

Nathaniel Wilford

This drum must have been a very large sized one for young Joseph's Company - or a very small one, for those who purchased it.

When my Father was a young lad, he was sent to Brookline to Dr Apinwalls Small Pox Hospital, to be inoculated, his friend John Doane, went with him, Mrs Greenough John's mother kept up a continual worry about him, and crying about all the time, her husband said to her one day, I don't believe that Mrs Curtis acts in that manner and she has but one Son, you think so, do you, well I will just have my horses harnessed, and go down and see she said -

When my Father came out of the Hospital, he was boarded a week, with a family of Seavers, to be sure, he should not bring any contagion home, this family lived in a very old house in Day Street, and consisted of two Brothers, Elijah who was married and Nat who was a bachelor and as odd as the fence - and usually quarreled with Elijah's wife, about once a fortnight, and then he would come to Grand-fathers and stay - Elijah and his wife, always went to meeting, every Sunday, each one took separate sides of the street, and carried on a conversation across the road, regardless of who heard them -

One Mr Heath, a very odd excentric man & revengeful disposition had a life long feud with Governor Sumner, on Sundays, when the Governor's Carriage drove up to the Church door, he would cut in before it, seated in an Ox Cart, in a large Arm Chair, driven by his black man, and not content with this manoeuvre, his Oxen must wheel back and forth with as much deliberation as possible in order to vex the occupant of the Carriage - his team would then stop the man would take the Chair out, and then he would step into, and descend to the steps, with as much dignity as a nobleman

Page 30th [duplicate number]

Jack my Grandfather's black man received his freedom at the beginning of the War, and went as a substitute for his Master, who was drafted every three months, but was too old to go - but nevertheless must send a man or pay a fine - Jack was drowned, when crossing a bridge, his foot slipped and he fell into the water -

This is one of the payments Grandfather had to make,
Roxbury July 17th 1776

Recd of Mr Joseph Curtis the sum of Ten Pounds, Lawful
money, it being a forfeiture, he, the said Curtis being
drafted to go to Canada, according to an Act of the General
Assembly of June 10th 1776

Elisha Whitney
Sergeant

Mr Joseph Curtis Soldiers Tax for July 1780

 Poll £ 40
 Real 135
 Personal 35 Received the above
 £ 210 Thomas Clarke Collector

No wonder ~~his~~ his property diminished yearly, the
furnishing a substitute for the Army every three
Months was a heavy item his Father died Feb 7 19th
1772 84 years of age. he had to pay the heirs the first
half of the purchase money his Mother died October
13th 1775 aged 87 years, and then the second payment,
became due, which he had to pay when so embarras-
sed and Uncle Bill wanted this, in hard money,
for he said he was in trouble, which was nothing
new -

My Grandfather Curtis died in 1792, aged 70 years - when my Father was nineteen years old - he was left with a wornout house and outbuildings, which had no repairs upon them during the war - and the farm in a poor condition for lack of culture, no money on hand and debts to pay, and no one disposed to pay debts owing to him, and if any did, it was in Continental Money, where gold and silver was loaned - my Grandfather was considered a rich man before the Revolution, and there was an enormous Doctors bill to pay and funeral expenses.

Doctors Bill

Estate of Mr Joseph Curtis deceased to Jonathan Davis Dⁿ for Medicines and attendance on his Father and Mother, himself, and family from March 1764 to January 1792 Ninety Pounds and Eight pence Lawful Money

~~November 26th 1793~~

£ 90 - 8

November 26th 1793 then received Joseph Curtis Note for Ninety Pounds and Eight Pence Lawful Money, in full of the above accounts

Jonathan Davis

Grandmother Curtis paid the services, had been honestly¹⁶⁴ rendered and they should be paid to the last farthing, many of his patients would not pay him, because he had perjured himself. My Father after he was twenty one years of age earned the money, and paid the bill in small sums untill the debt was liquidated, and the funeral Expenses also -

Page 32^d

My Father and Mother were married in the Afternoon May 27th 1800 by Rev. Dr. Gray - my Mothers wedding dress was a white Muslin, with a cross leaf, wrought with linen floss, a white lace half handkerchief on her neck - long silk white mittens, with white kid elastic, with silver clasps, around her wrists. a Comb set in paste stones worn in her hair - pale blue kid shoes spotted with black - and blue spangled tiffany lace -

My Father was dressed in a dark invisible green coloured Coat, white Vest, black Breeches, with silver knee buckles - white silk stockings, shoes and buckles - the Sunday after to Church, my Mother wore a dove coloured silk gown and Petticoat like the Polonaise of nowadays, trimmed with white Gimp,

165
and a white Chip Hat, with a wreath of small roses,
and green leaves, round the crown.

The week after their Marriage, they received their
friends to tea, at which a numerous party assembled,
her Aunt Hannah Parker and Mrs. Gore, superintended
the affair, and turned out tea, and Polly Mayo,
the girl carried it round -

My Mothers outfit which she purchased with her ^{own money}
was was a China Tea set handsomer than I have ever
seen since, half dozen silver tea spoons, two large
spoons, a dozen of Green handled knives and forks
a pair of Card Tables, half dozen of wooden Chairs
painted, the seats mahogany colour - a Kiddermin-
ster Carpet, a pair of Brass Andirons and Shovel
and Tongs, a pair of Brass Candelsticks, a Mahogany
tea tray, with Brass handles, a Mahogany Bureau a
Feather Bed, half dozen Chamber chairs, and a large
Brass kettle, the house had plenty of old fashioned
furniture in it -

When my Mother came to live with her Aunt there were dressers from top to bottom in the low kitchen, filled with Pewter dishes of all sorts and sizes - Cups, Mugs, Bowls and Cans, kept as bright as silvers, much of it was stolen, and melted, by the last Company of soldiers from Methuen, who were a vagabond set - there were continual quarrels among them - one soldier had his thumb bitten off -

Soon after my Mother's marriage, Mrs. Newel called upon her, bringing a very long fine damask table-cloth wished her to purchase it, she told her she did not want it, she should never give dinner parties, she replied, don't be too sure of that, Captain Curtis is a rising man in the community - She probably pillaged the article from the Corings

My Father was Captain of a Militia Company about 1800. Paul Gore was Lieutenant and William McCarty Ensign the roll of the company and when organized had never been found, it was the day of small things my Mother made the Officers Epaullets, out of white saddlers silk, and Mrs Gore and her sister made the Cockades - the

167
night before the first Muster my Mother sat up all night
helping make cartridges, General Sumner told me
my Father was the finest looking Officer he ever saw.
in the war of 1812 he was Captain of a company of Exempts.

My Father was very musical played the flute and
Clarionett had a taste for drawing and had a good
mechanical turn, he was a useful, prominent citizen,
in the Town and Parish, he settled all the Estates, and
was the Guardian of all the Orphans in the place.

Page 34th

Where my Great Grandfather Samuel Curtis,
could have lived, after his marriage in 1711 untill he
built his House, in 1721-22 I cannot find out - every
house in the neighborhood was occupied, by those who
owned them - the one which stood, where my brother
Herman, lives was owned by Mrs. Mary Parker, he did not
purchase it untill 1738, he might have rented it, for
his Farm was all around it, and if he cultivated his
land, he must ~~have~~ lived near. I think he devoted
himself to Agriculture and did not work at his trade
- he must have accumulated considerable property,
to have been able to purchase his real estate, and

168
build his house, he gave to each of his children a certain amount of money when they started in life, and although he and his wife lived untill their death with my Grandfather, they had enough to support them - my mother never heard where they first located themselves - ~~and his~~ ^{His} Son Philip, received a liberal education.

My Grandfathers house, when he was a Bachelor was the seat of hospitality and good cheer, and the poor and needy were refreshed by his bounty - after his marriage he was completely deluged with hangers on, and of those who had no helper, he brought up his wifes sisters two children, his brother Bills daughter - Old Dennis, Seaver and London, also eat and drank, for Johnson who had become a pot was looked after and kept from starving a house fixed up for him out of an old barrack - these incumbrances, and the taxes, left little for himself -

Page 35

List of scholars belonging to Jamaica Plain School in Roxbury that came to School in the year 1765, to Master William Morris of said School for 8 dollars per month

William Shattuck
 John Shattuck
 Ben^y Mayo
 Caleb Mayo
 Samuel Mayo
 Thomas Weld
 Jacob Weld
 Elijah Weld
 Samuel Weld
 Payson Wilson
 Henry Weld
 Joseph Brewer
 Nath^l Brewer
 John Child
 Stephen Child
 Phineas Child
 Thomas Shurmer
 Thomas Giles
 Moses Blackman
 John Harris
 Lotthrop Russel
 William Jordan
 John Pike
 William Pike
 Walter Bell

Timothy Conner
 Joseph Williams
 Thomas Cheney
 William Cheney
 John Gore
 Joseph Gore
 Joshua Gore
 John^{tho} Parker Cannon Hero
 John Anderson
 Benj^m May
 Eben^m May
 Solomon May
 Charles Louder
 Josiah Ireland
 Caleb Wheaton
 Daniel Benjamin
 Charles Cuff
 Cato Pemberton
 Edward Hunnewell
 James Shed
 William Foster
 Jason Berry
 Polly Connor
 Sarah Weld
 Katharine Parker "
 " my Grandmother

Esther Childs
Martha Shattuck
Polley Shattuck
Polley Weld
Hannah Harris
Mehitable Weld
Sarah Weld
Prudence May
Abigail Mayo
Elzy Berry
Rebecca Brewer
Susannah May

Betsy Newell Page 36^{to}
Theoda May
Abigail Newell
Mary Cheney
Betsy Benjamin
Susannah Denny
Abigail May
Sarah Benjamin
Elija Brewer
Esther Williams
Mary Parker

(70)

The School Officers for the year 1765 were as follows

William Burroughs	Clerk
Benjamin May	Treasurer
Henry Williams	Troffee
Ebenzer May	— do
Joseph Brewer	— do
Joseph Gore	Auditor
Joseph Brewer	— do
Ebenzer May	— do

The abov Officers were chosen on the first Monday in April at being
their Annular Meeting on account of said school
Mr Samuel Wilkison

No Deaths recorded on the Town Records on following years
 1756. 1764. 1765. 1768. 1771. 1772. 1775. 1779. 1786. 1787. 1789.
 1791. 1792

The House in which I now live, has undergone various alterations since it was first built in 1721-2 -

My Father a short time before his marriage took down the old chimneys, and it seemed to him the house was spreading apart, it made such a large hole, then about the year 1805 or 6 - he sold the four rooms that my Grandfather, added to the main house, before he was married, to Mr. John Davis of Jamaica Plain, who made a small house of it - shortly after this he took away the old low kitchen, and built a large and small one, some years later he added a Piazza on to the south side of the House. The windows of the House at first were diamond shape Panes of glass set in leaden frames.

My Father sold to James Perkins Esqr fourteen Acres of Land bounding on Jamaica Pond for 400 dollars an Acre. He afterward bought land of Andrew Ritchie for which he paid the sum of \$2000 - he also in 1813 - bought of the Heirs of John Lucas of Brookline, six Acres, ~~which~~

thirty six rods and one third of a rod of Land, (72)
for one Thousand, One Hundred and fifty dollars
He also bought one Acre and one quarter of an Acre of Land
in 1801, of Nathaniel Winchester for sixty six dollars
& 7 cents. He purchased in 1816 - for Acres of Land of
^{widow} Abigail Williamson of the County of Ontario it being
in the State of N. York formerly the Newel estate for the
sum of fifteen Hundred dollars. He also purchased Land
of Parker Heins for which he paid Eleven Hundred dollars
- a strip of Land also of J D Gould costing One Hundred
dollars

Page 38

The Davis Place, he gave Three Thousand dollars for -
His Property on the Mill Dam for his Son Joseph cost him
the sum of Five Thousand Dollars -

House for his Son Herman was Three Thousand dollars.
He built two Barns on the Homestead, which were burned
and he erected two others in their place.

My Grand Father added nothing to the original Farm of
Thirty one Acres, but laid out his money which was gold
and silver in Real Estate in neighboring towns, in
the year 1751 he purchased a piece of Land in the
town of Stoughton now Sharon Massachusetts, containing

fifty Acres, for the sum of One Hundred and six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence in Lawful Money of the Province

In the year 1773 he bought a Farm in Newton, Mass. containing about ninety five Acres, with a Dwelling House, Barn and Cider Mill thereon and about three quarters of an Acre of Salt Marsh, lying in Watertown

In 1773 he bought a certain piece or parcel of Land lying in Newton Mass - containing fifty Acres, with a Dwelling House and two Barns standing thereon for the sum of four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money -

He bought a Saw Mill of John Wilson of Newton, standing in Brookline, near by the line between Newton and Brookline for the sum of thirty pounds - in the year 1771

Page 39

To all People to whom these Presents shall come, Philip Curtis of Stoughtonham, Benjamin Curtis of Roxbury, Obadiah Curtis of Boston and Joshua and Mary Loring of Roxbury, in the County of Suffolk and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England - Send Greeting

Know yee - whereas our Honoured Father and Mother, Samuel and Hannah Curtis, have manifested their earnest desire, that their worldly Estate may be

(74)

settled before their decease, in an amicable manner
by their several children - in obedience therefore to the
request of our said Father and Mother, and on the
following conditions, that is to say, our Brother Joseph
Curtis, of Roxbury, shall maintain, our said Father and
Mother, during their natural lives, and during the
natural life of each of them - in meat, Drink, and
washing, and Lodging, and provide them with all
sorts of comfortable and decent cloathing, and shall
find, cut, and bring into them, all such firewood,
as shall be needful, at all times and provide them
nurses, whenever it shall be necessary, and shall both
in health and sickness, tend and take care of our
said Father and Mother, and each of them, in a
careful and tender manner, and our said Father
and Mother, shall have the entire and sole use, of
one end of his now Dwelling House viz. that next to
Bowens Land, these several articles to be fulfilled,
to the entire satisfaction of our ~~Trusty friend Isaac~~
~~Curtis of Roxbury~~ said Father and Mother, and the
satisfaction of our trusty friend Isaac Curtis of Roxbury
whom, we do appoint for that purpose, and the said
Joseph Curtis, shall upon the death of the first of our
before mentioned Parents, pay or cause to be paid,
unto us, our heirs, Executors or Administrators, or to

(75)
such person or persons, as shall be by us, or them here-
unto appointed, the full and just sum of Two Hun-
dred, and Thirty three Pounds, Six Shillings and
Eight pence. Lawful Money, of the Province — Six pounds
thirteen [Page 40] Shillings and four pence, a
part thereof, to be paid to our Brother William Curtis,
and upon the Death of the other of our Before men-
tioned Parents, Joseph Curtis shall pay or cause to
be paid, unto us our Heirs, Executors, or Administrators,
or to such person or persons as shall be by us, or them
thereunto appointed, the further sum of ~~six pounds~~
Two Hundred and Thirty three pounds, six shillings
and Eight pence Lawful Money, as aforesaid, the
further sum of six pounds thirteen shillings and
four pence, a part thereof, to be paid unto our
Brother William Curtis, the two before mentioned
sums amounting, in the whole, to the sum of,
Four Hundred and Fifty three pounds six shillings,
and Eight pence (inclusive of the sum of Thirteen
Pounds, six shillings and eight pence, that is to be
paid to William Curtis) to be divided between us,
the before mentioned Philip, Benjamin and Obediah
Curtis, and Mary Loring, or our heirs, so each of our
Heirs, having regard to what each one, hath hereto-

for had, so as to make each one equal - And (76)
whereas the said Joseph Curtis hath given Bond for the
performance of each, and every one, of the beforemen-
tioned Articles, to our full satisfaction, which we
hereby acknowledge, and ourselves therewith fully content.

Now Therefore, Know Ye, That we said Philip,
Benjamin and Obadiah Curtis, and Mary Loring,
for and in consideration thereof, have remitted, released,
and forever Quit Claim, and by these presents, for our-
selves, each of our heirs, Executors, Administrators and
Assigns, do fully, clearly, and absolutely, remise, re-
lease, and forever Quit Claim, unto the said Joseph
Curtis, in his full and peaceable possession, and
seizing, to his heirs, and Assigns, forever, all such
right, to the Title, Interest and Demands whatso-
ever, as we the said Philip, Benjamin Obadiah,
Joshua and Mary have, might or right to have, or
expect to have, in or to all the Housing and Lands
[Page 41] Goods or Chattles, Right or Credit, whereof
our honoured father Samuel Curtis, is now possessed,
wherever the same may be, except such money, as our
said Father may have in hand, or on Interest which
shall be reserved to defray Doctors Bills, and the funeral
Charges of our said Father and Mother, and if said mon-
ies, should be insufficient for that purpose, the

remaining Charge, to be equally borne by the Brother
 and Sister, and the Pew, (in the East Meeting House
 in Roxbury, to be kept as a Family Pew) to have and
 to hold, all and singular the Housing, and Lands,
 Goods and Chattels, rights, and Credits, (except as
 before mentioned, unto the said Joseph Curtis, his Heirs,
 and Assigns, forever, so that neither the said Philip,
 Benjamin, Obadiah, Joshua & Mary Loring nor any of
 their Heirs, Assigns, or Person or Persons, for them, or
 either of them, or in the name or Names, right or
 stand of any of them, shall or will demand, of,
 in, or to, the Premises, or any part or parcel thereof,
 (Except as before mentioned) they and every one of them,
 shall be utterly excluded, and barred, forever by
 these Presents, and also the said Philip, Benjamin,
 Obadiah, Joshua and Mary Loring, and their Heirs,
 the said Housing, and Lands, Goods, and Chattels and
 other the premises, with the Appurtenances, to the said
 Joseph Curtis his Heirs and Assigns, to his, and their
 own proper use and uses, manner and form,
 above specified, against their Heirs and Assigns,
 and every one of them shall conform to these Presents
 In witness and confirmation, whereof we have unto
 these Presents set our own hands and Seals. This

178

20 Day of March A. D. One Thousand Seven Hundred
and Seventy One, and in the Eleventh year of his
Majestys Reign - Signed Sealed and Delivered
In Presence of us
Isaac Curtis
Mehitable Wheeler
Philip Curtis
Benjamin Curtis
Obadiah Curtis
Joshua Loring

Page 42

Know all Men, by these Presents, that I Joseph Curtis
of Roxbury, in the County of Suffolk, and Province of the
Massachusetts Bay in New England, Husbandman,
am holden and stand firmly bound, unto Philip
Curtis of Stoughtonham, Clerk, Benjamin Curtis of Rox-
bury Hatter, Obadiah Curtis of Boston Wheelwright and
Joshua and Mary Loring, of Roxbury Esqr. all in the
County of Suffolk, and Province aforesaid, in the full
and just sum of Nine Hundred, and Thirty Three
Pounds, Six Shillings and Eight Pence Lawful Money
of the Province aforesaid to be paid unto the said
Philip Benjamin and Obadiah Curtis, Joshua and Mary
Loring, or to their certain Attorneys, Executors, Admin-
istrators or Assigns, to the which payment, well and
truly to be made, I bind myself and Heirs Executors

and Administrators jointly by these Presents Sealed with my Seal, dated the 20th Day of March, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy One and in the Eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c.

The Condition of this Obligation, is such, that if the above named Joseph Curtis, shall do well and truly perform all and every Article specified, in an Instrument, under the Hands and Seals of Philip, Benjamin and Obadiah Curtis, Joshua and Mary Loring Piercing date the 20th Day of March, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy One, (Reference thereto, being had, may more fully and at large appear) without fraud, cover, or delay, then this Obligation be void, and of none effect, or else to stand and remain in full force and interest—

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in Presence of us

Isaac Curtis

Mehitable Wheeler

Joseph Curtis

An Account of what I Samuel Curtis of Roxbury
 have given to my Children, as part of their portion, of my
 Estate, and it is my desire, that each Child, would
 acknowledge, what, he has received, by annexing his name
 to his respective sum, he has had, as Exhibited, in this
 Instrument -

Joshua Loring

In the year 1743 & 1744

I gave my Son Philip One Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

Philip Curtis

In the year 1745 I gave my Son Obadiah, One Hundred
 Pounds Old Tenor

In the year 1745 Dec^r 24th I gave my Son Obadiah,
 Fifty Pounds, Old Tenor

In the year 1746 Aug- 4th I gave my Son Obadiah One
 Hundred Pounds Old Tenor

In the year 1751 February 22^d I gave my Son Obadiah
 Fifty Pounds Old Tenor

Obadiah Curtis

In the Year 1743 Dec. 26th I gave my Son Benjamin.
Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings

In the Year 1744 June 9th I gave my Son Benjamin
Twenty Six Pounds

July 16th 1744. I gave my Son Benjamin Eleven Pounds, Ten
Shillings

[Page 44]

In the Year 1751 February 20th I gave my Son Benjamin
One Hundred and Fifty Pounds

In the Year 1752 April 24th I gave my Son Benjamin
Thirty Pounds Old Tenor

May 4th 1752 I gave my Son Benjamin, Twenty Pounds Old Tenor

August 31st 1752 I gave my Son Benjamin Forty Pounds Old Tenor

Benjamin Curtis

May 12th 1750 I gave my Son William Forty Pounds Old Tenor

May 21st 1750 I gave my Son William Four Pounds Old Tenor

August 8th 1750 I gave my Son William Six Pounds Old Tenor

October 10th 1752 I gave my Son William Ten Pounds Old Tenor

December 1750 I gave my Son William Twenty Four Pounds, Ten
Shillings Old Tenor

April 6th 1751 I gave my Son William Fifty nine Pounds, Ten
Shillings Old Tenor

May 20th 1751 I gave my Son William Four Pounds and Fourteen

Shillings Old Tenor 182
November 5th 1751 I gave my Son William Forty Pounds Old Tenor
January 2^d 1753 I gave my Son William Forty Two Pounds,
Old Tenor

April 27th 1753 I gave my Son William Ten Pounds, Four Shillings
Old Tenor.

December 5th 1753 I gave my Son William or I paid Johnathan
Mason, for him Forty Three Pounds, Seven and Six Pence. Old Tenor

In December 6th 1753, I paid to Gil Lewis & Deblois for my Son
William, Fifty Pounds, Seven Shillings & Six Pence Old Tenor.

5th April 1744. Paid to Mr Thomas Allen, for Card Goods. Eighteen
Pounds Old Tenor

William Curtis

Page 45

January 30th 1752 I gave my Son Joseph Curtis, One
Hundred Pounds Old Tenor

March 1st 1742 I gave my Son Joseph Eighty Pounds in two Carts

Joseph Curtis

January 1st 1756 I gave my Son William Sixty Pounds Old Tenor
January 19th I gave my Son William Fifteen Pounds, Fifteen
Shillings Old Tenor

I gave my Son William Ten Pounds Ten Shillings, Old Tenor
 it was for one dressing of Calfskins

February 12th he received of me Thirty Six Pounds of Card
 Wire, which cost me Thirty Two Pounds and Eight Shillings

March 18th 1756 my Son William Curtis, received of me
 in Old Tenor Five Pounds and Eight Shillings -

June 14th 1756 Paid to Captain Cahall, for bringing your
 Card Wire Fourteen Pounds, Ten Shillings -

April 23^d 1764 I the Subscriber received of my Father
 Three Hundred and Ninety Four Pounds, Eighteen Shillings
 and Five Pence Old Tenor

October 29th 1764 I the Subscriber Received of my Father
 Six Hundred and Twenty Two Pounds, Ten Shillings
 and Five Pence Old Tenor

William Curtis

A Quartlet Court - Amongst the list of Jurors, the Jury
of Life and Death is the name of William Curtis -
19 Sept 1637

At a Quartlet Court, held at Newtown 5th day of the 10th
month - Whereas there came into this Court - Richard
Browne of Watertowne, on the behalf of John Wolcott,
and William Curtis of Roxbury, and by mediation of
said Court, the said William Curtis, was willing, and
did agree to pay, unto the said Richard Browne & 5
10 shillings, which he was indebted to one John Jesop,
now out of this jurisdiction, in satisfaction of & 5. 10 shil-
lings - due by the said Jesop - to the said John Wolcott,
this Court doth order that upon payment of the said
& 5 ten shillings, by said Curtis, the said John Wolcott
and the said Richard Browne, and their Executors shall
aways be liable, to pay harmless, the said Curtis,
against the said Jesop, for the said sum of 5^{lb} ten
shillings - till a sufficient discharge be otherwise had -

The House built by our Emigrant Ancestor
William Curtis on Stony Brook, is yet standing, in
good preservation, it stands near the Brighton Station

on the west side of the Boston and Providence Railroad, under the shadow of a large elm, and near it is a spring of water, used by the family for more than two hundred years. The family tradition is, that the house was built of timber cut upon the ground, must have been so, for it was a forest where wolves prowled about - and there were no wood wharves at that period - it is said to be the second house on the place, the first probably a log house, and located down by the Spring & very old Lady in ^{town} the second house - told me that was the location - which seems to be confirmed by the following extract from the Records of the Massachusetts Bay vol 1. p. 252 "William Curtis, had leave to build upon his lot, his other dwelling being seated so inconveniently. March 13th 1638-9 -"

"Boston Records, February 25" 1675"

This Court doe order John Curtice of Roxbury, to be a guide to the forces, now going forth, and he is impowered to take six Indians from the Island, for his assistance, with their armes, some of which Indians, may be improved for spies, as the Commander in chief shall appoint

This John Curtis was the oldest son of our Emigrant Ancestor William Curtis born in England

The Boston Records 1657- have the following: Philip Curtis, to be paid 20^s for killing a wolf at Muddy River, last winter"

This Philip Curtis was a Lieutenant, in Captain Henchman's company, and was slain by the Indians, with several others, in an expedition, which left Boston, November 1st 1675 for the rescue of some captives, taken by the savages at the Town of Marlborough - The captives were recovered, but in an assault upon an Indian camp at Hassanamissett (now Grafton) led by Lieut Curtis he was killed he was son of William the

The late Captain Nathan^c Curtis told me that his Grandfather Isaac Curtis was standing at his front door, one day, & he saw a Wolf and her two young ones coming up the ravine, he took his gun, and shot the old one. they no doubt were coming to the spring to drink - such sights were of frequent occurrence, it was a dense forest at that time - The Parish Records, testify, that there were no burials at home, for a great space, but many were slain in the war with the Indians, no town, lost more, if any, towards so many for its length from 1675 to 1685 -

In 1712 Nov 2^d the Church in Spring St West Roxbury was gathered eighteen persons formed the Church, among the number Jonathan Curtis son of John and Grandson of William the Emigrant -

This Church was called the second Parish in Roxbury the separation from the second Parish was incorporated into a distinct Parish, by the name of the Third Parish or Precinct in Roxbury. after many delays and various difficulties, in the beginning of 1772 the May following 1773 nine persons with their estates, belonging to the first or lower Parish were separated from it, by an act of the General Court and united to the already formed Church the whole number consisted of forty four families -

It was a tradition of the Davis family - the first Meeting House was built of timber cut from Davis's Mountain belonging to Deacon Ezra Davis since owned by the late Benjⁿ Bussey Esq

The first Minister was the Rev Doctor William Gordon a Scotchman by birth he was ordained in the forenoon July 7 1772 - during the American Revolution April 1st 1778 the General Court or Provincial Congress held,

for a time, their session in this House on account of the prevailing Small Pox, and invited Doctor Gordon to officiate as their Chaplain — But they became dissatisfied with him, offended at his prayers which they thought were rather intended to dictate the measures they ought to pursue, than to implore the divine direction of them — They therefore dismissed him — This gave great umbrage to the Doctor and the more so as many of his particular friends voted for his dismissal.

The first prayer, and the first Sermon, preached at the funeral of a deceased person were at the funeral of Dr Mayhew in Boston the year 1766 —

194

